Distr.:
LIMITED

ECA/PADIS/RTC/ I/INF.1/Add.1
1 March 1985

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Regional
Technical Committee for PADIS

26 to 27 March 1985, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting will begin on 26 March at 9.30 a.m. The opening address shall be delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. Election of Officers and Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur to act as officers of the meeting.

3. The Evolution of the PADIS Programme

The PADIS programme has evolved significantly since its inception in the late 1970s. The evolution involves: On the one hand an expansion in the scope of information to be handled by the system. On the other hand, new dimensions have emerged such as up-to-date data-transmission technologies, the establishment of multi-purpose national and subregional information and documentation centres, etc. It may be recalled that the ECA Conference of Ministers has approved, at successive meetings, plans for a three-phase, ten-year programme to be executed by the PADIS Project under the auspices of ECA. The meeting may wish to review the mandates, plans, studies and evaluative accounts prepared for and by PADIS over the last five years in relation to the present status of the Project.

4. The Establishment of a Regional Co-operative Information System:

Policies, Programmes and Progress To-date

Initially, PADIS has been perceived as a regional co-operative bibliographic information system for the development sciences and as a Pan-African statistical data bank. These two aspects were merged after PADIS entered its operational stage in 1981. At present the co-operative information system comprises both bibliographic data bases (macro-level as well as sectoral) and a statistical

data bank. The meeting is expected to review the principles underlying this scheme, the programmes drawn to execute them and the progress that has been made so far. In addition the meeting is expected to furnish guidelines on the degree of decentralization needed to execute this co-operative undertaking.

5. Assistance to Member States and African Institutions: Policies, Approaches, Elements and Progress To-date

It is generally agreed that the most vital mission of the PADIS system is to assist in the strengthening of national information infrastructure. The meeting may wish to review the status of information and documentation activities at the national, subregional and regional levels; the envisaged roles and tasks of national and subregional centres as well as their infrastructural requirements and the strengthening. Also, the meeting is expected to consider in detail elements of the PADIS assistance scheme including the provision of equipment and expertise, advisory services and training. The meeting will be provided with a progress report for its consideration.

6. The Establishment of a Data-Transmission Network Using Up-to-Date Telecommunication Technologies

This issue has been the subject of criticisms from several quarters. The meeting is expected to review the needs for a data transmission network, its degree of complexity and its technical and financial implications in light of the categories of data to be transmitted and the location of the data sources. The meeting shall give guidelines on how PADIS should continue its work on this subject.

7. The Capacity of the Central Co-ordination Office of PADIS to execute the PADIS Regional Programme

The meeting shall review the manpower and technical capabilities of the Central Co-ordination office of PADIS with a view to identifying major constraints and to recommend remedial action.

8. The Choice of Computer Technologies for the PADIS System

The meeting will be provided with a report on the choice of technologies and it may wish to examine the issue in view of recent developments in the field as well as in terms of needs, performance, compatibility, maintenance and cost factors.

9. Financial Implications of the PADIS Programme

The meeting will be provided with a report on the financial situation of the Project and its funding prospects. The meeting is expected to identify possible roles for Member States, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and organizations of the United Nations System in the funding of the Project.

10. PADIS Work Programme for the period 1985-1986

The meeting is expected to give guidelines on the work programme for the Project for the period April 1985 to December 1986.

11. Other matters

12. Date and place of the next meeting

13. Adoption of the Report

The Commission will adopt its report during the final session.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Regional
Technical Committee for PADIS

26 to 27 March 1985, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

Monday, 25 March 1985

Afternoon

- Visit of PADIS premises, informal discussions

Tuesday, 26 March 1985

Morning

1. Registration of participants
2. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

   Address by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
3. Election of Officers and Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 2)
4. Discussion on the Evolution of the PADIS programme (agenda item 3)
5. Discussion on the establishment of a regional Co-operative information system: policies, programmes and progress to-date (agenda item 4)

Afternoon

6. Discussion on PADIS assistance to Member States and African institutions: policies, approaches, elements and progress to date (agenda item 5)
7. Discussion on the establishment of a data-transmission network using up-to-date telecommunication technologies (agenda item 6)

Wednesday, 27 March 1985

Morning

8. Discussion on the capacity of the Central Co-ordination of PADIS to execute the PADIS regional programme (agenda item 7)

9. Discussion on the choice of technologies for the PADIS system (agenda item 8)

10. Financial implications of the PADIS programme (agenda item 9)

Afternoon

11. PADIS work programme for the period April 1985 to December 1986 (agenda item 10)

12. Adoption of the report and adoption of a draft resolution for the consideration of the Conference of Ministers at its 11th Meeting (agenda item 11)

13. Closure